



# Cattle on Feed

ISSN: 1948-9080

---

Released March 18, 2011, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

## United States Cattle on Feed Up 5 Percent

**Cattle and calves on feed** for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.4 million head on March 1, 2011. The inventory was 5 percent above March 1, 2010.

**Placements** in feedlots during February totaled 1.66 million, 1 percent below 2010. Net placements were 1.60 million head. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 400,000, 600-699 pounds were 365,000, 700-799 pounds were 489,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 410,000.

**Marketings** of fed cattle during February totaled 1.79 million, 4 percent above 2010.

**Other disappearance** totaled 60,000 during February, 12 percent below 2010.

**Number of Cattle on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: March 1, 2010 and 2011**

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2010	2011	
(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed February 1 .....	10,959	11,583	106
Placed on feed during February .....	1,674	1,664	99
Fed cattle marketed during February .....	1,716	1,793	104
Other disappearance during February .....	68	60	88
On feed March 1 .....	10,849	11,394	105

**Number of Cattle on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: February 1, 2010 and 2011**

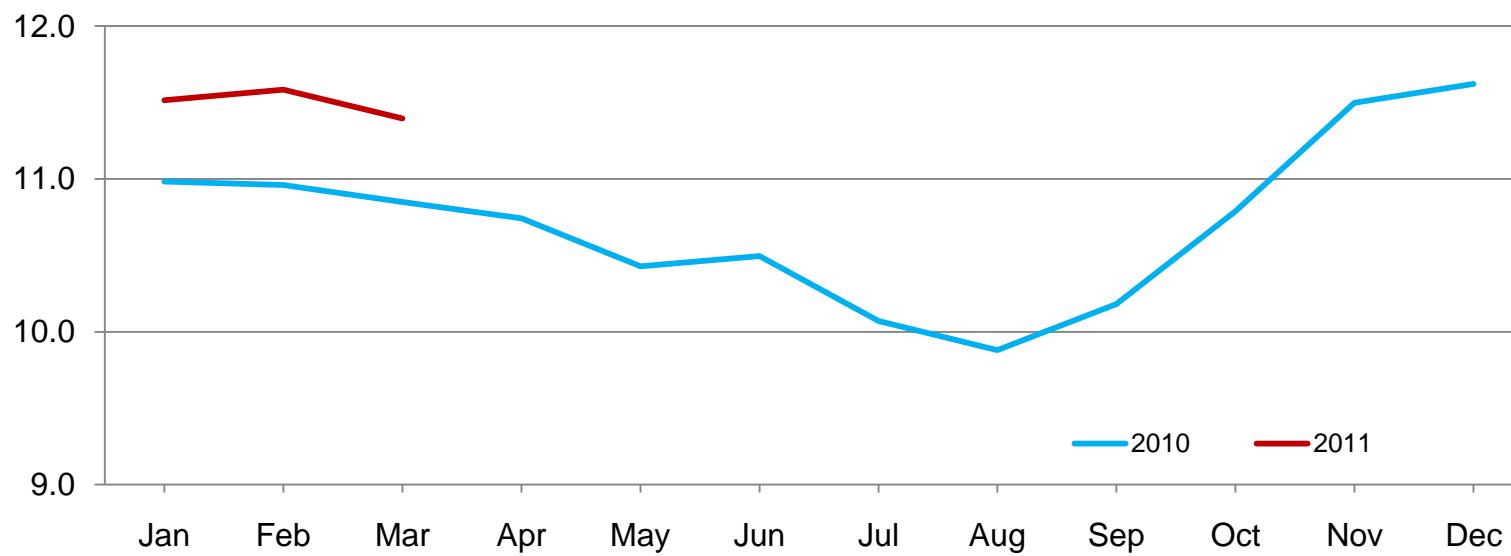
Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2010	2011	
(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed January 1 .....	10,983	11,514	105
Placed on feed during January .....	1,822	1,899	104
Fed cattle marketed during January .....	1,776	1,774	100
Other disappearance during January .....	70	56	80
On feed February 1 .....	10,959	11,583	106

**Number of Cattle on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2010 and 2011**

State	March 1, 2010	February 1, 2011	March 1, 2011		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona .....	286	266	269	94	101
California .....	425	470	460	108	98
Colorado .....	940	1,070	1,070	114	100
Idaho .....	195	230	220	113	96
Iowa .....	610	660	650	107	98
Kansas .....	2,220	2,270	2,220	100	98
Nebraska .....	2,350	2,460	2,430	103	99
Oklahoma .....	355	375	360	101	96
South Dakota .....	240	270	260	108	96
Texas .....	2,650	2,880	2,840	107	99
Washington .....	168	209	208	124	100
Other States .....	410	423	407	99	96
United States .....	10,849	11,583	11,394	105	98

## United States Cattle on Feed 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots

Million head

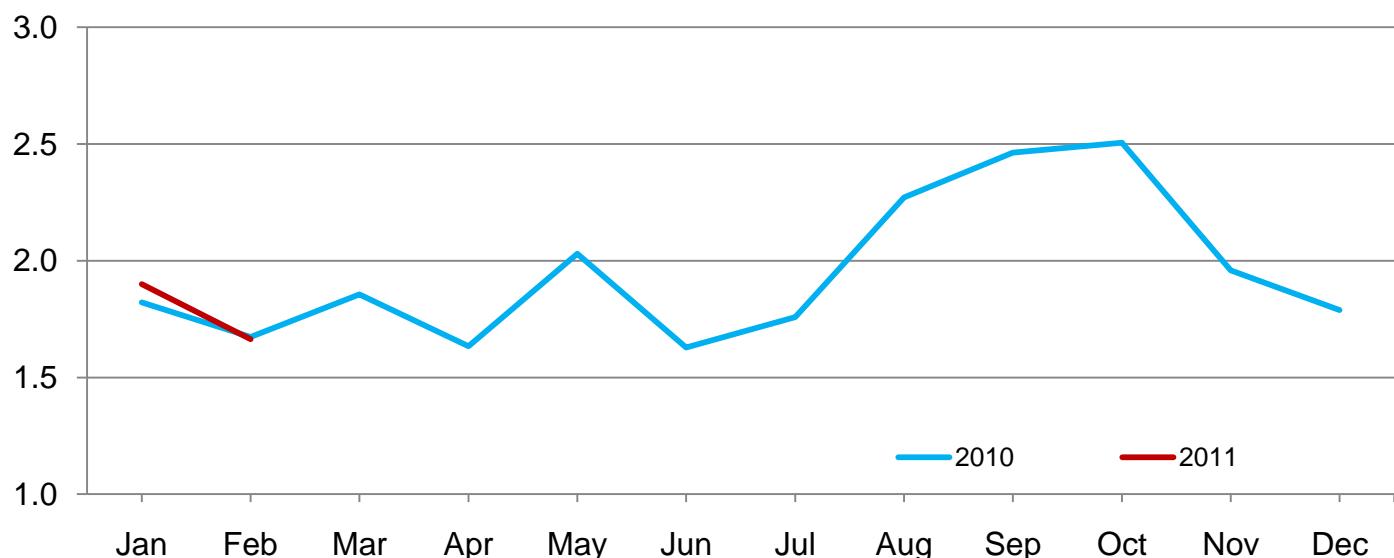


**Number of Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2010 and 2011**

State	During February 2010	During January 2011	During February 2011		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona .....	21	36	29	138	81
California .....	51	54	43	84	80
Colorado .....	160	185	215	134	116
Idaho .....	36	31	31	86	100
Iowa .....	78	93	71	91	76
Kansas .....	405	435	365	90	84
Nebraska .....	365	430	350	96	81
Oklahoma .....	54	66	60	111	91
South Dakota .....	52	51	42	81	82
Texas .....	365	440	380	104	86
Washington .....	30	31	31	103	100
Other States .....	57	47	47	82	100
United States .....	1,674	1,899	1,664	99	88

**United States Cattle on Feed  
1,000+ Capacity Feedlots Number Placed**

Million Head



**Number of Cattle Placed on Feed by Weight Group on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2010-2011**

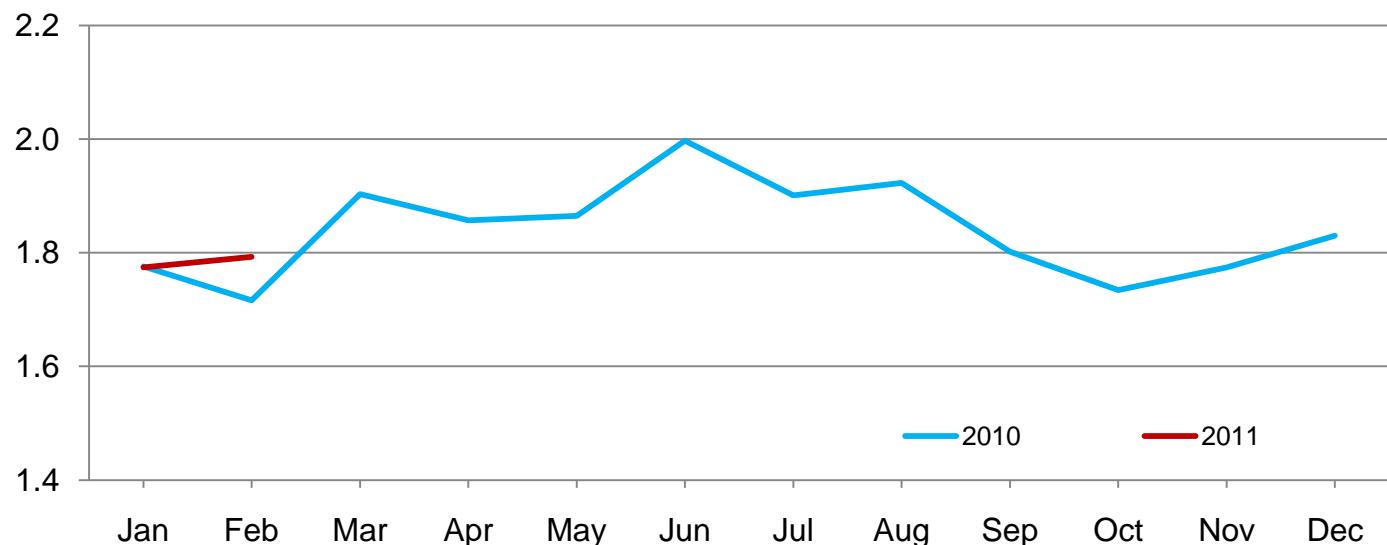
State	During February									
	Under 600 lbs		600-699 lbs		700-799 lbs		800+ lbs		Total	
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Colorado .....	15	30	35	45	50	65	60	75	160	215
Kansas .....	50	55	90	80	150	150	115	80	405	365
Nebraska .....	55	60	80	85	110	100	120	105	365	350
Texas .....	105	160	95	85	110	85	55	50	365	380
Other States .....	95	95	70	70	99	89	115	100	379	354
United States .....	320	400	370	365	519	489	465	410	1,674	1,664
	During January									
State	Under 600 lbs		600-699 lbs		700-799 lbs		800+ lbs		Total	
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Colorado .....	20	25	25	50	45	65	40	45	130	185
Kansas .....	60	55	125	120	190	165	100	95	475	435
Nebraska .....	70	70	110	105	120	130	110	125	410	430
Texas .....	135	165	100	115	115	105	70	55	420	440
Other States .....	110	150	85	85	92	84	100	90	387	409
United States .....	395	465	445	475	562	549	420	410	1,822	1,899

**Number of Cattle Marketed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2010 and 2011**

State	During February 2010	During January 2011	During February 2011		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona .....	24	27	25	104	93
California .....	48	51	50	104	98
Colorado .....	175	190	210	120	111
Idaho .....	40	40	40	100	100
Iowa .....	65	69	79	122	114
Kansas .....	415	435	405	98	93
Nebraska .....	370	385	365	99	95
Oklahoma .....	62	64	73	118	114
South Dakota .....	44	40	50	114	125
Texas .....	400	390	405	101	104
Washington .....	27	30	30	111	100
Other States .....	46	53	61	133	115
United States .....	1,716	1,774	1,793	104	101

## United States Cattle on Feed 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots Number Marketed

Million Head



### Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2010 and 2011

State	During February 2010	During January 2011	During February 2011		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona .....	1	1	1	100	100
California .....	8	3	3	38	100
Colorado .....	5	5	5	100	100
Idaho .....	1	1	1	100	100
Iowa .....	3	4	2	67	50
Kansas .....	10	10	10	100	100
Nebraska .....	15	15	15	100	100
Oklahoma .....	2	2	2	100	100
South Dakota .....	3	1	2	67	200
Texas .....	15	10	15	100	150
Washington .....	1	1	2	200	200
Other States .....	4	3	2	50	67
United States .....	68	56	60	88	107

## Terms and Definitions of Cattle on Feed Estimates

**Cattle on feed** are animals being fed a ration of grain, silage, hay and/or protein supplement for slaughter market that are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better. It excludes cattle being "backgrounded only" for later sale as feeders or later placement in another feedlot.

**Placements** are cattle put into a feedlot, fed a ration which will produce a carcass that will grade select or better, and are intended for the slaughter market.

**Marketings** are cattle shipped out of feedlots to a slaughter market.

**Other disappearance** includes death loss, movement from feedlots to pasture, and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.

## Reliability of Cattle on Feed Estimates

**Survey Procedures:** During January and July all known feedlots in the United States with capacity of 1,000 or more head are surveyed to provide data for cattle on feed estimates. During the other months, all known feedlots from 16 States are surveyed. The 16 States account for 98 percent of the cattle on feed in feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head. Individual State estimates are published monthly for 11 of the 16 States. Data collected from the remaining 5 States are used to establish the "Other States" estimates. These 5 States include Illinois, Minnesota, New Mexico, Oregon, and Wyoming. The "Other States" category represents all cattle on feed with a capacity of 1,000 or more head for the rest of the United States.

**Estimating Procedures:** These cattle on feed estimates were prepared by the Agricultural Statistics Board after reviewing recommendations and analysis submitted by each State office. Regional and State survey data were reviewed for reasonableness with each other and with estimates from the previous month when establishing the current estimates.

**Revision Policy:** Revisions to previous estimates are made to improve month to month relationships. Estimates for the previous month are subject to revision in all States each month when current estimates are made. In February, all monthly estimates for the previous year, and the number of feedlots and annual marketings from two years ago are reviewed and subject to revisions. The reviews are primarily based on slaughter data, state check-off or brand data, and any other data that may have been received after the original estimate was made. Estimates will also be reviewed after data from the Census of Agriculture are available. No revisions will be made after that date and estimates become final.

**Reliability:** Since all 1,000+ capacity cattle on feed operators in every State are not included in the monthly survey, survey estimates are subject to sampling variability. Survey results are also subject to non-sampling errors such as omissions, duplications, and mistakes in reporting, recording, and processing the data. The effects of these errors cannot be measured directly. They are minimized through rigid quality controls in the data collection process and through a careful review of all reported data for consistency and reasonableness.

To assist users in evaluating the reliability of estimates in this report, the "**Root Mean Square Error**" is shown for selected items in the table on the following page. The "Root Mean Square Error" is a statistical measure based on past performance and is computed using the differences between first and latest estimates. The "Root Mean Square Error" for cattle on feed inventory estimates over the past 24 months is 0.1 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 11.4 million head by more than 0.1 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.2 percent.

The table on the following page shows a 24 month record of the range of differences between first and latest estimates for selected items. Using estimates of number on feed as an example, changes between the first estimate and the latest estimate during the past 24 months have averaged 9,000 head, ranging from 0 to 30,000 head. During this period the initial estimate has been above the latest estimate 8 times and has been below the latest estimate 10 times. This does not imply that the initial estimate is likely to understate or overstate final inventory.

## Reliability of Monthly Cattle on Feed Estimates

[Based on data for the past 24 months]

Item	Root mean square error	90 percent confidence level	Difference between first and latest estimate				
			Average	Smallest	Largest	Months	
						Below latest	Above latest
Number on feed .....	(percent) 0.1	(percent) 0.2	(1,000) 9	(1,000) 0	(1,000) 30	(number) 10	(number) 8
Placements .....	0.3	0.6	3	0	20	11	5
Marketings .....	0.3	0.5	3	0	21	8	6

## Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity specialists in the Livestock Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information. E-mail inquiries may be sent to nass@nass.usda.gov

Dan Kerestes, Chief, Livestock Branch ..... (202) 720-3570

Scott Hollis, Head, Livestock Section ..... (202) 690-2424  
 Sherry Bertramson – Livestock Slaughter ..... (515) 284-4340

Doug Bounds – Hogs and Pigs ..... (202) 720-3106

Vacant – Dairy Products Prices ..... (202) 690-2168

Jason Hardegree – Cattle, Cattle on Feed ..... (202) 720-3040

Mike Miller – Milk Production and Milk Cows ..... (202) 720-3278

Everett Olbert – Sheep and Goats ..... (202) 720-4751

Lorie Warren – Dairy Products ..... (202) 690-3236

## Access to NASS Reports

For your convenience, you may access NASS reports and products the following ways:

- All reports are available electronically, at no cost, on the NASS web site: <http://www.nass.usda.gov>
- Both national and state specific reports are available via a free e-mail subscription. To set-up this free subscription, visit <http://www.nass.usda.gov> and in the “Receive NASS Updates” box under “Receive reports by Email,” click on “National” or “State” to select the reports you would like to receive.
- Printed reports may be purchased from the National Technical Information Service (NTIS) by calling toll-free (800) 999-6779, or (703) 605-6220 if calling from outside the United States or Canada. Accepted methods of payment are Visa, MasterCard, check, or money order.

For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Agricultural Statistics Hotline at (800) 727-9540, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: [nass@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass@nass.usda.gov).

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.